

XAAZ-29095
EEH 1952

[not necessarily ZAKO
but definitely one of
his agents]

SUBJECT
HUNGARIAN QUESTIONS

We have had occasion to make contact with an Hungarian who will be able to give us some information on his country. Unfortunately this person left Hungary four months ago, and things change so quickly, in a matter of weeks, behind the iron curtain. Nevertheless certain information has permitted us to make in our turn for this person, a questionnaire which provides a more simple way of sending you information which gives you the opportunity of obtaining from the information data which is of the most primary importance in order to aid you in clarifying the political situation in Hungary.

Our informer leaves very soon to return to Hungary. We have a chance of receiving a follow-up on this questionnaire, which we will communicate to you.

1. What is the present position of GERO compared to some other members of the Party, the trio, the Political Bureau, the National Surety Bureau, toward the Administration of State?
2. The relations between REVAI and RAKOSI - Has REVAI once more aligned himself on the side of GERO against RAKOSI, or will he maintain a neutral position?
3. What role is de VAS (the former communist Burgomaster of Budapest, who was put in office in 1947 by RAKJ) playing? One has always considered him as a RAKJ man. Is it true that he is still the most popular communist in the country? Is he still the chief of planning? Who keep him in his present position? Is he still a member of the Political Bureau and how did he get there?
4. We want some details on FARKAS, Minister of War since 1950. Note that this man seems to be unknown to everyone. Is it true that he is a Soviet General? Is it correct that he has lived in Moscow since 1932? How is it that recently he has commenced to take part in political debates not only of military problems but also on the education of youth, which function comes under the jurisdiction of REVAI?
5. Certain rumors are that one of the principal differences in the points of view between RAKOSI and GERO concerns those who remain of the former social democrats, of which the functionaries, mostly industrialists, continue to play very important roles in the factories. RAKOSI, according to certain rumors which we have heard, manages to protect them in order to facilitate the continuation of industry, while GERO wishes to end it.
6. Concerning the purification of the offices of planning. It appears that not only has Professor BUDAI been removed but arrested. BUDAI is a very "pure" economic theoretician, without any political ambitions, faithful server of the regime, good friend of Professor Eugen VARGA. A number of elements of the VARGA group have been purified. What is behind this and what are their names?
7. Purification in the personnel secretariat of RAKOSI.

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Not only has DONATH, his first private secretary, been arrested last year, but one has heard of other arrests and even executions. We can get more on this.

8. On the subject of the frontier zone of Yugoslavia (15 kilometers). All the details we can get on this will be important.

9. Concerning the officers corps. Even after the arrest in 1949 of General PALFFY, and other generals of the former regime, a good number of former officers serve in the army in the capacity of specialists. One speaks actually officially of a "democratization" of the army which consists of replacing these elements with some students of workmen origin. What is there to this?

10. Actually there is a great campaign on for the friendship of the people of the rural districts for the people of the cities. Are there some results or has there arisen a crisis between these two groups, and why? What is the relation between this campaign and the campaign against the Catholic Church, which is stronger since these last months.

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SUBJECT: THE HUNGARIAN QUESTION

We have had the opportunity of meeting a Hungarian who has been able to give us some news on his country. Unfortunately, this person left the country four months ago. Life can change rather fast in a few weeks behind the iron curtain. Nevertheless, certain news has likewise enabled us to question this person more closely. We are giving you this list of questions in case that you might yourself be able to obtain some of the following information -- information that is most important in helping us understand the political situation in Hungary.

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ATT-1 TO XAAZ-29095

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